

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/714,608

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the enclosed replacement formal drawing sheet in which "103d" in Fig. 26 has been changed to --103b-- to conform to the specification at page 2, line 24, which refers to "slit 103b".

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

To overcome the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20 and 21 over U.S. Patent No. 6,707,689, Applicant files concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer (with fee) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c).

Since the present Divisional Application was filed as a result of a **restriction requirement** by the Examiner in **parent** U.S. Patent No. 6,736,648 (Application No. 10/277,746), the Examiner's double-patenting rejection with respect to this patent is **improper and should be withdrawn**; see 35 U.S.C. § 121, third sentence, and MPEP §804.01.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Maue '380 in view of Seki '322.

(It is noted that Seki '322 was cited, but not applied, in the prosecution of the parent application No. 10/277,746, now Patent No. 6,736,648 issued May 18, 2004.)

In support of this rejection regarding claims 7, 12, 13 and 17, the Examiner attempts to read these claims on Figs. 2-4 of Maue '380. The junction box illustrated in Figs. 2-4 is **so vastly different**, from both that described in Applicant's specification and also that defined in claims 7, 12, 13 and 17, that Applicant has great difficulty in following the Examiner's reading of these claims on Maue's disclosure. Applicant has concluded that the Examiner is using a very literal reading of Applicant's claim language in an attempt to find readability.

Thus, Applicant has, in view of these clear differences between Maue's disclosure and Applicant's disclosure, amended the independent claims 7 and 17 to **avoid any superficial readability of these claims on Maue's disclosure**.

More specifically, claims 7 and 17 have been amended explicitly to recite that the "connector portion...is spaced in a longitudinal direction from said junction box main body" and that the "cable portion", itself, is "longitudinally extending".

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter (**structure**) being claimed in claims 7 and 17 is **completely different** from Maue's disclosure, in that Maue does not teach or even remotely suggest at least the "longitudinally extending" modifier which Applicant has inserted in claims 7 and 17.

Thus, Applicant must **respectfully disagree** with the Examiner's statement,

Maue et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the junction box main body including a plate-shaped first connecting terminal to be contained in the junction box housing and the strip portion is bent in a transversal direction along a longitudinal direction.

However, Applicant **agrees** with the Examiner's statement that Maue's junction box does **not** include "a plate-shaped first connecting terminal to be contained in the junction box housing and the strip portion is bent in a transversal direction along a longitudinal direction".

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 7, 12, 13 and 17, because, as explained above, the disclosure/teaching of Maue '380 is **incapable** of rendering *prima facie* obvious the subject matter of each of claims 7, 12, 13 and 17.

To find obviousness in the remaining rejected claims 8-11, 14 and 17, the Examiner attempts to combine the (deficient) disclosure of Maue '380 with that of Seki '322.

However, the rejections of these claims also are flawed because the Maue/Seki combination is **incapable** of rendering *prima facie* obvious the subject matter of each of these claims.

More specifically, the **structure** of the junction box disclosed in the **primary** reference, Maue, is **entirely different** from, and does not even suggest, the elements and structures recited in parent independent claims 7 and 17.

Therefore, even, assuming, *arguendo*, that the **secondary** reference, Seki '322, discloses the features asserted by the Examiner, the Maue/Seki combination and modifications proposed by the Examiner are **incapable** of producing the subject matter of the rejected claims and are also **incapable** of producing any subject matter which would have rendered these claims *prima facie* obvious.

In summary, then, since Maue '380 does not disclose or suggest at least the "longitudinally extending" structure of Applicant's independent claims 7 and 17, and since Maue's housing structure is **clearly so different** from that described and claimed by Applicant, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

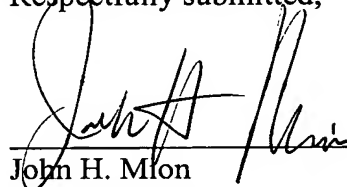
If for any reason the Examiner feels the application is not now in condition for allowance with claims 7-17 (i.e., that is, if the Examiner still feels that these claims would have been obvious from the Maue/Seki combination), Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to **call**

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the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Mion", is written over a horizontal line.

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